

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-5 (withdrawn).

6. (currently amended) A line switching unit comprising:

means for controlling the switching of a plurality of lines;

means for measuring line delay times of the plurality of lines;

means for storing data transmitted from a ~~particular~~ data terminal device to said line switching unit;

means for allocating the data from the means for storing ~~particular data terminal device to one or more of the~~ plurality of lines based on the delay times measured by the means for measuring; and

means for separately controlling a clock signal for receiving data from the data terminal device and a clock signal for transmitting data to the plurality of lines;

wherein the line delay times of the plurality of lines are measured, and the data from the ~~particular~~ data terminal device read from the means for storing is allocated to ~~transmitted to the one or more of the~~ plurality of lines in units with timing determined for each of the plurality of lines based on the measured delay times, thereby guaranteeing an amount of data transmitted ~~the data from the particular the~~ data terminal device ~~being communicated~~.

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ A line switching unit according to claim 6, wherein the clock signal for transmitting data to the plurality of lines is controlled to correspond to the line speed when receiving data from the particular data terminal device.

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8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ A line switching unit for switching data received on ~~an a particular input line to one of a plurality of output lines~~ based on line delay times of the plurality of output lines, said line switching unit comprising:

means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines;

means for allocating the received data from the particular input line to said plurality of output lines based on the measured delay times;

a plurality of storing means, each corresponding to one of the plurality of output lines for storing data allocated to the corresponding one of the plurality of output lines; and

~~means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines; and~~
means responsive to the measured line delay times for controlling said allocation means to allocate the received data from the particular input line across the plurality of storing means to the plurality of output lines based on the measured line delay times.

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ A line switching unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein said responsive means allocates to a first one of the output lines an amount of the received data from the ~~particular input line~~, said amount corresponding to the

measured line delay time of the first one of the output lines, and allocates subsequently received data from the ~~particular~~ input line to another of the output lines.

10. (currently amended) ~~A~~ A line switching unit for switching data received on an ~~a particular~~ input line to one of a plurality of output lines based on line delay times of the plurality of output lines, said line switching unit comprising:

means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines;

means for allocating the received data from the ~~particular~~ input line to said plurality of output lines based on the measured delay times;

a first line buffer for storing data allocated to a first one of the plurality of output lines;

a second line buffer for storing data allocated to the others of the plurality of output lines; and

~~means for measuring the line delay times of the plurality of output lines; and~~

means responsive to the measured line delay times for controlling said allocation means to provide the received data from the ~~particular~~ input line to said first line buffer up to a time corresponding to the measured line delay time of the first one of the plurality of output lines, and to provide subsequently received data from the ~~particular~~ input line to the second line buffer.